

ABSTRACT

To provide a sample-and-hold method which can limit the storage capacity of storage media needed to a bare minimum and can independently manage a series of data contained in a predetermined interval before the arrival time of a trigger signal and a series of data contained in a predetermined interval after the arrival time of the trigger signal by separating them clearly.

The present invention comprises a primary storage medium; an area definition data storage means for storing area definition data that defines a first storage area which corresponds to the interval before the arrival time and a second storage area which corresponds to the interval after the arrival time in the primary storage medium; a first write control means for continuing to write a series of incoming data into the first storage area defined by the area definition data, using wrap around addressing until the trigger signal arrives; and a second write control means for writing a series of data arriving after the arrival of the trigger signal into the second storage area defined by the area definition data instead of ceasing to write data into the first storage area when the trigger signal arrives.